Projects under Integrated Wastelands Development Projects

4203. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 85 projects were sanctioned under the Integrated Wastelands Development Projects Scheme in 1993-94;

(b) if so, the number of projects sanctioned for Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the districts where these projects have been selected in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) the name of the monitoring authority; and

(e) who or which agency is implementing these 85 projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (COL. RAM SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Wastelands Development Board was created in July, 1992. Since its inception and upto 31.3.1994, the Board has sanctioned 71 projects. In July, 1992 14 projects were transferred from the erstwhile National Wastelands Development Board in the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Thus on 31.3.1994, the Board was assisting 85 projects under the Integrated Wastelands Development Projects Scheme.

(b) and (c) Nine projects have been sanctioned under Integrated Wastelands Development Projects Scheme in Andhra Pradesh for the districts of Nalgonda, Nellore, Mahaboobnagar (2 projects), Vizanagram, Nizamabad, Prakasam, Vishakhapatnam and Cuddapah.

(d) The implementation of the Integrated Wastelands Development Projects Scheme is monitored at various levels including by the multi-disciplinary team at the district level, the State Governments and the Department of Wastelands Development.

(e) The projects under the Integrated Wastelands Development Projects Scheme have been sanctioned far implementation by District Rural Development Agencies/Zilla Parishads, State Governments, Non-governmental organisations and Corporations.

Granl-ln-Aid Scheme for Non-Forest Development Wastelands

4204. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a Grant-in-Aid Scheme for non-Governmental Organisations to obtain 100% grant for sustainable development of non-forest wastelands;

(b) whether it is a fact that Rs. 3.83 crores was given to 356 NGOs;

(c) if so, the details of the recipient NGOs State-wise;

(d) how Government watch over the work done by these NGOs;

(e) whether reports are called from the State Governments; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (COL. RAM SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Wastelands Development Board is implementing the Grant-in-Aid scheme in which financial assis-tance to develop Non-forest wastelands is given to Non-Govemment Organisations. The activities that can be taken up under this scheme include nursery raising and plantation of trees, fodder development, soil and moisture conservation, awareness raising, protection etc.

(b) and (c) Porposals received from the Non-Govemment Organisations are scrutinised in the National Wastelands Board. After this the proposals are sent either to the State Forest Department or the District Rural Development Agency to check on the credibility and capability of the Non-Govemment Organisation.

Based on this report and the technical feasibility of the proposal the project is approved. Rs. 3.83 crores have been released to various agencies by the reconstituted National Wastelands Development Board during the years 1992-93 and 1993-94 as per State-wise details given in the Annexure, *[see* Appendix 171, Annexure No. 72] 133 Non-Govemment Organisations have been funded under the Grant-in-Aid scheme. These include proposals approved by the National Wastelands Development Board and those that were transferred by the erstwhile National Wastelands Development Board in the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

(d) Any registered non-profit Organisation, Cooperative, Company or Trust and recognised School, College and University can submit a project under the Grant-in-Aid scheme to the National Wastelands Development Board for financial assistance for development of non-forest wastelands. This scheme is subject to pre-sanction scrutiny through the State Forest Department or the District Rural Development Agency. The District Rural Development Agency examines the credibility and capability of the organisation. Based on this report and the technical viability of the project the project is approved and first release is made to the Non-Govemment Organisation. The project is generally to be implemented in a period ranging from 3 to 5 years. Further monitoring is done through progress reports which give details of the physical and financial progress achieved by the Non-Govemment Organisations in the implementation of the project. After the first instalment is released & utilised the project is evaluated by sending an independent evaluator to the site. On the basis of this evaluation the second instalment is released. Before release of subsequent instalments the procedure enumerated above is repeated.

(e) and (f) Reports from the State Forest Department or the District Rural Development Agency are called as explained earlier at the pre-sanction appraisal and in some cases at the stage of subsequent releases also.

Welfare of Handloom Weavers In Rural Areas

4205. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH:
SHRI B. K. HARI PRASAD:
SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes that are being implemented for the welfare of the handloom weavers with the funds at the disposal of district collectors under Rural Development;

(b) the amounts so far spent under each scheme, State-vise for the Welfare of the handloom weavers; and

(c) whether representations have been received to revise the schemes so that the same may be really beneficial to handloom weavers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL): (a) Instructions have been issued to all concerned in the States/UTs for:

(i) Provision of 1 loom each to the loomless weavers under IRDP;

(ii) Training under TRYSEM for loomless weavers;

(iii) Coverage of SC/ST weavers households under Indira Awas Yojana;

(iv) Provision of common facilities centres in rural areas.

These benefits are to be given to eligible weavers living below poverty line.

(b) No separate funds have been earmarked and the above support is to be provided through the ongoing programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development.

(c) Representations received in this